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**Lt. Governor Skillman Announces Launch of  
Indiana Artisan Development Project**

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman recently announced the launch of the Indiana Artisan Development Project (IADP), which will support and promote Hoosier artisans and handmade products. The project is a joint venture between the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), the Indiana Office of Tourism Development, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the Indiana Arts Commission.

“Indiana is home to hundreds of talented artisans and boasts a variety of unique handmade products,” said Lt. Governor Skillman. “Governor Daniels and I are committed to supporting Hoosier entrepreneurs and promoting Indiana-made products. This project provides a unique opportunity to enhance the entrepreneurial culture that has been created in Indiana and attract visitors to our state.”

The goals of the Indiana Artisan Development Project include: raising awareness about the availability of hand-crafted and value-added food products made in Indiana; providing artisans, particularly those in rural areas, with access to entrepreneurial support; providing grant funding for artisan business development education and networking; promoting artisan trail development and retail opportunities; and developing branding for Indiana-made goods. Program initiatives are aimed at attracting in- and out-of-state visitors to individual artisan sites and arts-concentrated areas in Indiana.

The Indiana Artisan Development Project is housed in the Indiana Arts Commission. Artisans interested in learning more about the project should contact Eric Freeman, Artisan Development Project Manager, at 317.607.8715 or [artisan@iac.in.gov](mailto:artisan@iac.in.gov).

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